



MI-CW3910

# Michigan Crop Weather

September 27, 2010

## Fall Weather Arrives

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending September 26, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Fieldwork and harvest continued across much of the state this week, however a few thunderstorms and strong winds slowed fieldwork in some areas. There were some reports of winds taking down some corn. Activities for the week included harvesting, wheat planting, soil testing, cleaning and treating bins for proper grain storage, and tilling.

## Field Crops

Field crops made steady progress during the week despite less than ideal weather conditions a couple of days. Rain showers interrupted harvest for nearly the entire state at least one day of the week. This left fields too wet for equipment for a day after the rain. Crops in the lower third of the state endured high winds midweek that resulted in minimal scattered damage to fields. Crops continued to be maturing all at once as maturity continued to progress north. **Corn** harvest progressed at a quicker than normal pace with 19 percent of the crop harvested. Reporters are indicating mixed reactions about production. While some had higher expectations, others were well pleased. "It's a once in a lifetime corn crop," said a reporter from Muskegon County. "The corn is dry but the stalks are very green. It is an unusual situation for Northern Michigan," said one reporter from Missaukee County. **Soybeans** were also harvested earlier than normal. Harvest was just getting underway in Clare and Clinton Counties. **Sugarbeet** harvest continued well ahead of normal pace with "sugar content running around 16.5%", according to a Bay County reporter. Open harvest is expected to begin mid to late October. Farmers were anxious to get an early start on **wheat** planting. Many acres were planted as soon as soybeans were harvested. A small amount of **alfalfa** was being cut as the season drew to a close

## Fruit

Harvest of **apples** continued. McIntosh and Gala harvests have ended. Cortland, Empire, Jonathan, Honeycrisp, and Red and Golden Delicious continued to be harvested. Fruit color has improved in the southeast. Harvest of **peaches** and **pears** has ended. **Grapes** continued to be harvested. Concord harvesting should be finished this week. Downy mildew infections were seen in the southeast, southwest, and northwest. Fall **raspberries** continued to be harvested.

## Vegetables

Growers continued to remove stakes and black plastic in preparation for planting of fall cover crops. Crops harvested included: **cauliflower, broccoli, pumpkins, gourds, hard squash, carrots, winter squash, cabbage, yellow squash, zucchini** for fresh and processing, **cucumbers for pickles, potatoes, snap beans, peppers,** and **tomatoes** for fresh and processing. Late season cole crops were under heavy pressure from diamond back moths and imported cabbage worm. Powdery mildew has been difficult to control in pumpkins and winter squash in the Macomb County area. Cooler weather will bring an end to the harvests of cucumbers, zucchini, yellow squash, peppers and tomatoes in the southwest. Quality has been good on peppers and tomatoes. Snap bean growers were pleased with harvest despite dry conditions.

Soil moisture for week ending 09/26/10

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	8	18	69	5
Subsoil	7	31	61	1

Crop condition for week ending 09/26/10

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	1	6	26	48	19
Corn	2	6	18	48	26
Pasture	1	17	31	40	11
Soybeans	2	6	24	48	20

Crop progress for week ending 09/26/10

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, third cutting	88	82	79	85
All hay, fourth cutting	49	40	32	30
Apples, harvested	62	47	29	37
Corn, mature	90	75	18	59
Corn, harvested	19	13	0	5
Corn silage, harvested	96	88	35	73
Dry beans, harvested	76	64	39	52
Potatoes, harvested	37	27	38	45
Soybeans, turning leaves	98	92	80	92
Soybeans, dropping leaves	86	66	49	68
Soybeans, harvested	17	5	1	8
Sugarbeets, harvested	21	16	7	6
Winter wheat, planted	19	8	18	19

The Michigan Weather Summary was unavailable at the time of publication.